[Mr. R. Krishna Pillai.]

component areas and institutions, that will be the time for our approaching the Governments of Cochin and Madras in regard to the terms on which they should co-operate in the matter. The enquiry on the particular matter is not shut out and it is for the purpose of Government receiving advice in regard to the type of the University to be established that the committee is going to be appointed.

In the light of the above explanation, does Mr. Madhava Variar press his motion?

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR: No, I withdraw the motion.

The motion was withdrawn.

The grant was made.

Demand XVI—Industries.

MR. I. C. CHACKO: Sir, I beg to move for a grant of Rs. 1,110 under Demand—XVI Industries.

It need not be stated that every activity of the Industries Department and every industrial enterprise has an engineering aspect. Since the current year's budget was voted by the Council, it was found necessary that an Industrial Engineer should be appointed in the Department of Industries. And an engineer cannot be conceived of without a draughtsman, drawing being the means by which expression is given to engineering ideas. The appointment of the Industrial Engineer, therefore, has necessitated the appointment of a draughtsman. The Industrial Engineer is also the Chief Inspector of Boilers, and to help him in the inspection of boilers and in other engineering matters, a mechanic is also required. I make a demand of a peon also for the Industrial Engineer. This explains the reason for the Demand.

The grant was made.

Demand XXIV—Miscellaneous Items.

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI: Sir I beg to move for the vote of the House in respect of a grant not exceeding Rs. 7,500 under "38. Miscellaneous"—Rs. 6,000 on account of the collection of exhibits for the British Empire Exhibition in 1924, and Rs. 1,500 on account of a preliminary exhibition in that connection to be held in Trivandrum in 1923.

The Council must be aware of the British Empire Exhibition proposed to be held in London in 1924 under the patrongage of His Majesty the King-Emperor. His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales is the President of the General Committee and the exhibition is being organised on a scale and in a manner unprecedentedly grand and imposing. India is also represented. It has been decided that Travancore should, along with other Indian States, participate in this Exhibition. Arrangements have already been made for a total ground space of 1,200 sq. ft. being reserved for the display of Travancore exhibits. A committee of officials and non-officials has already been appointed to work out the

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details in regard to the selection of exhibits. The committee held its first meeting in January, 1923, when Dewan Bahadur T. Vijayaraghavachari, Exhibition Commissioner for India, was also present. The committee thought that Travancore might incur a gross expenditure of a lakh of Rupees and estimated that, out of this, half a lakh might be recovered, leaving the other half as the net irrecoverable expenditure. The above conference was of opinion that this sum was well worth spending, having regard to the advantages that the State stood to derive from its participation in the exhibition. The exhibition might give us an excellent opportunity for advertising our raw materials and manufactured goods in the world's market. When we consider the advantages of participation, the expenditure of half a lakh of rupees is comparatively very small. The Council will have an opportunity of discussing what amount should be allotted for this purpose during the next budget session.

In order to make a suitable selection of exhibits to be despatched to London, the Committee resolved, at its second meeting held in February last at Quilon, that a preliminary exhibition might be held in Trivandrum early in 1099, at the time of the birthday of His Highness the Maha Raja. The Committee also asked for an advance of Rs. 10,000 to be distributed among the members of the sub-committees appointed for the collection of exhibits and for a further allotment of Rs 3,000 on account of the cost of the preliminary exhibition to be held in Trivandrum. An immediate advance of Rs. 4,000 has been sanctioned for the collection of exhibits from the provision of Rs. 5,000 in the current year's budget under the head "38. Miscellaneous—7 Madras and other Exhibitions". The balance of Rs. 1,000 available under this head has been earmarked for the T. A. of the non-official members of the Exhibition Committee. The fresh allotment required for this purpose is Rs. 6,000. For the cost of the preliminary exhibition in Trivandrum, the whole of the sum of Rs. 3,000 asked for by the committee may not be required in 1098 itself. It is estimated to cost only about Rs. 1,500 in the current year. The total grant, therefore, required is Rs. 6,000 on account of the collection of exhibits and Rs. 1,500 on account of the preliminary exhibition in Trivandrum, or Rs. 7,500 on the whole. I request that this may be sanctioned as a supplementary grant.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR: I beg to move the following motion.

To omit Rs. 6,000 on account of the collection of exhibits for the British Empire Exhibition.

I am not convinced from Mr. Krishna Pillai's speech that our participation in the Empire Exhibition will be, in any way, beneficial to our interests. I believe that our participation is not only useless but also injurious to our interests. But the Government have decided to take part in the exhibition and appealed to the people for hearty co-operation. A Committee has been appointed to collect exhibits and to make other necessary arrangements. Neither the Committee nor the Government have thought it fit to explain the utility of our participation in an exhibition which is to be held in a far-off city in another continent. The British

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[Mr. M. R. Madhava Variar.]

people have organised the exhibition with a view to ascertain the resources of the Empire and to exploit them with organised skill. The exhibition will do immense good to Britain and other industrially developed and commercially advanced parts of the Empire which are ever on the alert to exploit the industrially backward countries. I fully believe that every one in this House will agree with me when I say that Travancore is both commercially and industrially in a backward condition. We can send to the exhibition only certain raw products. Some of my friends in this House may advance an argument that participation in the exhibition is the best advertisement for our raw products. Even assuming that their argument is correct, I put the question to this House, whether it will be to our advantage to exhibit our raw products in a foreign country. Is it wise to find markets for raw products when we have the ability and the means to convert them into manufactureed goods? Does any other civilised country in the world follow this course? Will you like to send all your raw cotton to Japan or England and get, in return, clothes from foreign countries? It is this policy which has ruined our industries and impoverished us in the long run. I surmise that our participation will cost at least a lakh of rupees. By spending this huge sum and placing certain raw products in a murky corner of a spacious building or *shamiana*, do you think that our articles will be well-advertised? If advertisement of raw products is absolutely necessary in the interests of this country, is it not better to advertise them in papers to the businessmen of every country in the whole world? We seek to advertise our raw products only to some representatives of the Empire in London by means of participation in the exhibition. If advertisement is the object of our participation, we can do it more effectively not only in London, not only to a few representatives, but in all cities and to all businessmen. I submit that it is neither profitable nor wise to participate in the exhibition and it is not advantageous to our interests to excite the cupidity of exploiters by the advertisement of raw products. We have no finished articles worthy of exhibition and worthy of advertisement. Even if we have, we are not in a position to supply the demand. Such exhibitions are intended for industrially developed countries. The only good which we may derive from participation is perhaps some medal or empty certificate. Are we in a position to purchase these useless medals and certificates for a lakh of rupees? I am in favour of holding an exhibition in connection with the birthday of His Highness the Maha Raja. That will stimulate industrial activities. I do not know whether our Government will reconsider its decision with regard to the participation in the Empire Exhibition. Whether they do it or not, I have to express my emphatic opinion that participation in the exhibition is injurious to our economic interest and is conducive to the unnecessary wastage of a lakh or more of our precious money at this time of stress. So I oppose the demand and earnestly request the Government not to spend any money on the farce of participation in an exhibition organized for exploitation in a far-off country.

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MR. A. HOOGEWERF: Sir, I beg to oppose the motion brought forward by Mr. Madhava Variar. He spoke evidently on the presumption that raw products alone are to be exhibited in London. Though I am not aware of the details of the exhibition, I think the biggest industries in Travancore will find a place in the exhibition. As an instance, I might quote the beautiful coir mats and mattings manufactured in Alleppey and other places. The exhibition is a big advertisement and a popular stimulant. I therefore oppose the motion.

DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI: Sir, as the Convener of the Committee appointed to arrange for the collection of exhibits, I may speak a few words in connection with the motion of Mr. Madhava Variar. The arguments advanced by Mr. Variar are two. He says that Travancore is industrially backward and has hardly any manufactured articles to be sent to this Exhibition. Secondly, he thinks that it is not advisable to send raw products to the exhibition and excite the cupidity of foreign exploiters.

In regard to the first argument, it must be admitted that Travancore is not so far advanced industrially as the European countries are. But Mr. Madhava Variar will concede, I am sure, that even in Travancore there *are* finished articles of industries and arts which could be sent to this exhibition with great advantage to the country. Take, for example, the case of ivory articles. I read an article some time ago in one of the local newspapers that, as early as in 1851, Travancore had earned a world-wide reputation for her ivory carving by sending a beautiful ivory chair to the exhibition that was held in London in that year. That chair was later on sent to an exhibition in America where prominent newspapers made mention of it in glowing terms. An ivory chair was more an ornament than an article of utility. The present exhibition is being organised for the advertisement of articles of utility. Travancore can certainly produce ivory articles which will find a ready sale in foreign countries. The Superintendent of the School of Arts has taken in hand the manufacture of such articles, for example, as ivory photo-frames, brush-backs, playing cards, chess-boards, etc. If these are sent to London or any other foreign market, they will, I am sure, find a ready sale. If these articles are sent to the London Exhibition, they will receive much wider advertisement, find better markets and obtain higher prices than at present. It may be said that these articles even now find a sale and that there is no necessity to advertise them any further. No doubt, they are being sold even now, but I must say that they are not being sold to our best advantage. If these articles are sent to such a large exhibition as is going to be held in London, which will be visited by people from all over the world, they will be able to see that Travancore is producing not only articles of wonderful workmanship but also those of great utility, and I am sure that by doing so we will be opening a very large market, much larger than what we have at present, for our ivory articles. The same result will follow in the case of our coir mats and mattings to which Mr. Hoogewerf referred. No doubt, some merchants are sending these articles to foreign countries, but if they are

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well advertised, we could surely secure wider markets and better prices for our products.

In regard to the second argument advanced by Mr. Variar, I must admit that I fully appreciate his sentiments. It is certainly a bad policy to allow our raw products to be exploited by foreigners. But I ask the question, what are we to do with these raw products? We are not making use of them now. We are sending a very large portion of these raw products to other countries.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF: I beg to know why we cannot sufficiently make use of the raw products in this country itself.

PRESIDENT: It hardly arises in this connection.

DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI: We can do it, but it is purely a question of capital. We are not now in a position to invest the capital that is required for the conversion of all our raw products into finished articles. The time may come when we may be able to do so. But, till that time comes, we should not make the producers of raw products suffer by shutting out foreign markets. At present we are not able to convert all our raw products into manufactured goods, and we should, therefore, try to secure the best markets and the highest prices for our raw products, until we have so far advanced industrially as to be able to consume the raw products locally. The argument that, since there is the possibility of our raw products being exploited by foreigners, we should not send them to this exhibition, does not seem to me to be sound. By exhibiting our goods, whether finished articles or raw products, at this exhibition, we will be opening out more markets for them. They will, therefore, fetch better prices, and thereby more money will come into the country. I want to see my country enriched and hence I strongly oppose the motion of Mr. Madhava Variar.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI: Sir, my friend, Dr. Kunjan Pillai, has, I believe, convinced the House that it is for the profit of Travancore to participate in the Empire Exhibition. Mr. Madhava Variar has said that it is not wise to participate in it. I think it is as wise as it is profitable. One cannot forget that our affairs are in a considerable measure bound up with those of the British Empire. And so long as the British Empire stands for the commerce of the world, it is the bounden duty of every one to participate in such enterprises to increase the output of wealth in the world.

My friend, Mr. Madhava Variar, referred to the cupidity of foreigners, who, he fears, will be persuaded to come to this country because of the beauty of the wares we may exhibit. Sir, I must remind him that, long before we made up our mind to participate in the exhibition, the East India Company knew all about our products. It is a matter of common knowledge that considerable sums of money and many valuable lives were lost before they came to India. If we are going to shut ourselves out of

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the exhibition, it does not mean that other nations are not going to venture out here. If the object of the British Empire Exhibition was to exploit the wealth of the world for their own purposes, one could very well doubt the wisdom of participating in it. But we should not put a pessimistic interpretation on the noble endeavours of the Exibition Committee. In matters of trade, the whole world is one. Steam and electricty have abridged time and distance. At present, it is easy and advantageous for the people in one part of the world to know what is going on in another part. Even from the point of view of knowledge, it is better that we send our manufactures to European countries, to find out if any use, unknown at present, can be discovered. We did not discover oxygen or electricity in Travancore. But we are using all the benefits of such discoveries. If, then, there is some process which will be able to give us a greater return for our products, we shall be in a position of advantage; for raw products are ours, and labour is cheaper here than in Europe, so that we shall be able to produce things at a cheaper cost and take them to European markets.

The argument about inviting foreigners to exploit the country has no force. If the whole world were like one of those cities of ancient Greece,—City-States as they were called,—then all people could congregate at one spot and see everything for themselves. But it is not possible under the conditions of the modern world. Therefore we should give the opportunity to all the peoples of the world to know what we are doing, what articles we are producing. And for the purpose of commercial advertisement, there is nothing better than an exhibition of this nature. Travancore will have much to gain if we participate in this exhibition.

My friend, Mr. Madhava Variar, referred to the murky corner in which the Travancore wares are going to be exhibited. (*Laughter.*) I believe so much in the generosity of the Empire Exhibition Committee that I am unable to hold that view. I may, to some extent, understand the expression "murky corner", if Mr. Variar refers only to the meteorological condition of England. This puts me in mind of the expression used by the greatest of English poets when he referred to his native country as a 'nook-shotten isle'. But that was said only by way of humour and not in disparagement. The geographical and meteorological conditions of England cannot be improved by any human agency. But with all these disadvantages, this exhibition will open the eyes of people; and we shall be greatly benefited by the experience.

Lastly, as a friend and ally of the paramount power, it is the highest duty of Travancore to participate in this exhibition. I do not question for one moment the genuineness of feeling with which Mr. Madhava Variar brought in this motion. I only wish to place certain other lights before him. I believe, Sir, that it is absolutely necessary in the interests of Travancore, in the interests of India and of the world generally, that Travancore should participate in this exhibition. The money is required not to be squandered. It has to be

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sanctioned because respectable non-official gentlemen of our Exhibition Committee like Mr. Muthunayagam Pillai have been asking for funds. Unless money is paid, it is very difficult to get things done and to get articles made. Therefore, I request my friend to view this question more broadly.

PRESIDENT: Do you wish to press this motion, Mr. Madhava Variar?

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR: Yes, I press this.

PRESIDENT: I may point out one thing which has been lost sight of by some of the members. Mr. Madhava Variar has said that the Government have not explained the advantages of participation in this exhibition. I may tell the House that the Government decided to participate in it after very careful consideration. This was done long before the advent of this Council; and Government had therefore no opportunity to explain this. There is a provision in the budget for 1098 for this exhibition and there was no motion on it when it came up for voting. Therefore, Government have taken it that the principle has been accepted by the House. This, I think, should be said in explanation of the conduct of Government.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR: If I had been convinced of the arguments advanced by my friends, I would not have pressed this motion. At the outset, I pointed out that the participation in the exhibition was not based on advertisement. If advertisement alone is necessary, we can do it in a better way than this. Then I said that we have not got enough of finished articles in this country to be exported or advertised. In answer to that objection, Dr. Kunjan Pillai pointed out that ivory was exhibited on a former occasion. I do not know how that exhibition has influenced the industry of this country. I know it has not. Moreover, ivory is not worked on a commercial basis. So that, even if we exhibit some articles, that will not compensate the expense of a lakh of rupees or more. Then with regard to raw products, Dr. Kunjan Pillai's argument was that, if we allowed more exploitation of our raw products, we would get more money. If we allow this exploitation to continue long, we will be impoverished. The history of India shows the same result. Of course, we can increase the output of money for some years, but we will have no money afterwards, and our industries will decay.

I do not wish to refer to certain sentiments expressed by Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai, *viz.*, that we should be dutiful to the British Government and that we must participate in the exhibition because certain big personages organised it.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI: I did not say that, because great personages organised the exhibition, we should participate in it. What I said was that, because it is profitable to us, we should participate in it.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR: Then he pointed out that the East India Company knew all about our articles and still our industries did not decay. But we know the history of India.

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PRESIDENT: I do not think he said that our industries did not decay even though the East India Company knew about it.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR: He said that it did not adversely affect it.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI: I did not say that either.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR: That was how I understood him.

I press my motion.

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI: Sir, apart from the advantages that the State may derive from the participation in this exhibition, I may explain that we have undertaken to participate in this exhibition long before the advent of this Council. I think it is not right to go back upon our word.

As regards our raw products, it is, no doubt, very good that we should manufacture and send our finished products. But it will take a long time, as explained by Dr. Kunjan Pillai, to do so. Till then, are we to keep our raw products? We are not getting sufficient value for our products, because we are not in a position to correspond direct with the proper markets and eliminate the middleman. The profit is all taken now by the middleman whom we will be able to eliminate by participation in this exhibition.

As regards ivory articles, Mr. Madhava Variar says that ivory articles cannot be made on a commercial basis. There is one gentleman in Srikantesvaram, who makes ivory articles.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR: On a large scale?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI: Yes, on a large scale. He makes excellent articles and makes a very good profit. The manufactures are sent all over India, so that it cannot be said that ivory articles cannot be made on a commercial scale.

The motion was put to the vote and declared lost.

The grant was made.

THE DESTRUCTION OF RECORDS AMENDMENT BILL.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR: Sir, I beg to move that the Destruction of Records Amendment Bill be finally read and passed by the Council. It was considered by the Council at its last meeting; and I move that the same be now passed.

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR: I second it.

The motion was agreed to by the Council.

THE TOLLS RECOVERY REGULATION AMENDMENT BILL.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR: Sir, I beg to move that the Tolls Recovery Regulation Amendment Bill, which was also considered by the Council at its last meeting, be finally read and passed.

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